

BSD

**ERETZ ISRAEL  
BULLETIN 112**

**WORLD ALLIANCE FOR THE CORRECTION  
OF THE SIN OF THE SPIES**

**“LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ALL THE  
MITZVOT OF THE TORAH” (SIFRE, PARASHAT REE)**

**LEARN THE LESSON AND DO NOT FOLLOW ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SPIES**

## **RAV KOOK ON ALIYAH AND THE PRECEPT TO HONOR ONE'S PARENTS**

When confronted by these Halachic rulings for the first time, students from the exile are often dismayed. The obligation of living in Israel can mean uprooting oneself from one's birthplace, and separating oneself from the culture and language one knows; and even from family and friends. A student asked Rav Kook what the Halacha said in a case where parents are opposed to a child's moving to Israel.

"The ruling in Yoreh Deah states that if a father tells a child to transgress a positive commandment, even a rabbinical ordinance, the child should not listen to him.(Yoreh Deah, 240:15)

**The precept to live in Israel is a Torah commandment, which applies in every generation, to every Jew, even in the time of Galut.**

**The following is a partial list of the Halachic authorities who state that the obligation to live in Israel is a Torah commandment binding in all times:**

Rambam, Laws of Marriage, Ch. 3:20; Laws of Slaves, Ch. 8:39. Ramban commentary to the Torah - Numbers, 33:53, Sefer Haredim, Ch.7. Maharit, Responsa, 2:28. Rashbash, 1. Knesset Gedolah, Even HaEzer, 75, Notes to the Beit Yosef, 25. Gaon of Vilna, Yoreh Deah, 267:161. Avne Nezer, Yoreh Deah, 454. M'il Tzedakah, Responsa, 26. Rav Yaacov Emden, Mor Uktziah, Section 1, Pg.16. Chida, Responsa, Yosef Ometz, 52, and Ya'ir Ozen, 10:5. Chachmat Adam, Shar Mishpatei HaAretz, 11:3. Paat HaShulchan, Ch.1, Beit Yisrael, 14. Chatam Sofer, Responsa, Yoreh Deah, 233,234. Rav Haim Palagi, Responsa, Nishmat Kol Chai, Yoreh Deah, 48. Rav Shlomo from Lublin, in his introduction to the book Mitzvah Yishuv

HaAretz. Maharam Shik, Yoreh Deah, 225. Ohr Somayach, Letter for the book Shivat Zion, printed in Kol Yisrael, 5687. Rav Yitzhak Elchanan Spector, Letters, Shivat Zion. Chazon Ish, Letters, 175.

Therefore, a Beit Din can compel someone to leave the exile and move to Israel, even from a luxurious home in the Diaspora, to a miserable home in Eretz Yisrael; even from a city in Galut where the majority of residents are Jews, to a city in Israel where the majority are idol worshippers.(Even HaEzer, 75:3).

The Beit Din has this power of compelling someone to move to Israel, not because of the many precepts which one can only perform in the Land, but, rather, because of the Kedusha of the Land itself, an eternal Kedusha which has not changed, nor will ever change, for all eternity.( Chatam Sofer, Yoreh Deah, 234).

Furthermore, the obligation of moving to Israel is all the more stringent when it stems from a desire to learn Torah in Israel, for, There is no Torah like the Torah of Eretz Yisrael.(Bereshit Rabbah, 16:7. Sifre, Ekev, 1: The Torah is exclusively in Eretz Yisrael) And the study of Torah is greater than the mitzvah of honoring one's father and mother.( Megilla 16B. Shulchan Oruch, Yoreh Deah, 250:25) Concerning women, because of the intrinsic Kedusha of Eretz Yisrael, which is the foundation of the obligation to live here, they are also duty-bound in this mitzvah. (From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

"And if, due to the routineness of our lives, we forget this connection - this is a catastrophe. It is a tragedy when we fall in love with the Galut. It is written in the Torah portion, Mishpatim, that after six years, a Hebrew slave must go free. If he refuses, saying, I loved my master - I won't go out to freedom, (Exodus, 21:5) this is an awful thing. Likewise, when we fall in love with the Galut, saying, 'I loved my master, the foreign nation,' this is a tragic mistake."

"We need to foster the understanding, and the feeling, that we must live in Israel, that this is our normal place, in terms of religion, and in terms of our nationhood. If we are not here, we are unhealthy. And from time to time, the gentiles remind us that we are living in their domain, in an alien land." (From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

PLEASE HASHEM SAVE US FROM THE SIN OF THE SPIES WHO SPOKE LASHON HARA AGAINST ERETZ ISRAEL. LET US CORRECT THE SIN OF "THEY DESPISED THE DESIRABLE LAND" (TEHILLIM 106) FOR IN THIS WAY WE BRING CLOSER THE COMPLETE GEULA WHEN YOUR NAME WILL BE SANCTIFIED IN THE WORLD AND YOUR NATION ISRAEL SHALL BE EXALTED AND YOUR BEIT HA MIKDASH REBUILT MAY THIS BE SOON IN OUR DAYS, AMEN YEHI RATZON